

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fuel tank closure for closing off a filling channel comprising:

(a) a closure part movable between a closed portion position in which an opening of the filling channel is sealed and an open position in which the filling channel is released in order to fill a fuel tank, said closure part sitting on an edge of the opening to form a seal in the closed position, and being pivoted laterally relative to the filling channel in the open position; and

(b) a drive unit comprising a motor driving said closure part; and

(c) a compulsory guide guiding said closure part, lifting said closure part off the edge of the opening in an approximately axial direction during opening of the filling channel, and

subsequently pivoting said closure part laterally about a pivot axis lying transverse to a longitudinal direction of the filling channel;

wherein said closure part comprises a first edge segment and a second edge segment lying opposite said first edge segment, and said compulsory guide has means for fixing said first edge segment in place, in articulated manner, near a position in which said closure part assumes the closed position, while allowing pivoting of said second edge segment about said first edge segment during opening and closing;

wherein said compulsory guide has an articulation part joined to said closure part on a first side, and mounted on a housing part, on a second side; and

wherein said articulation part is mounted in a hinge arranged on said housing part on the second side, and in at least one bore arranged on said closure part on the first side, said hinge and said at least one bore having parallel axes.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim 3 1, wherein the ~~virtual~~ pivot axis lies near inside the filling channel.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim 3 1, wherein the ~~virtual~~ pivot axis lies in front of the opening of the filling channel.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim 3 32, wherein said compulsory guide comprises at least one connecting link guide that has two complementary parts comprising at least one groove and at least one tab that engages in the groove.

Claim 7 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 6, wherein said at least one connecting link guide has two grooves in each of which a respective guide tab engages.

Claim 8 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 6, wherein each of said at least one groove has a first segment that runs in a straight line in the axial direction, and a second arc-shaped segment that follows said first segment.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said closure part has a cap that fits onto the edge of the opening and two struts arranged laterally on the cap.

Claim 13 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 12, further comprising a force absorption part arranged on at least one of the struts on which forces in an axial direction, for closing and opening the fuel tank closure, can be exerted.

Claim 14 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 13, further comprising an axially movable thrust ring coupled to said force absorption part.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~14~~ 32, wherein said force absorption part comprises a tab that engages in a recess of the axially movable thrust ring, so that said closure part is articulated to pivot on said thrust ring.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~14~~ 32, wherein said thrust ring has a thread for moving said thrust ring axially.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said motor comprises an electric motor.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said drive unit has a step-down gear mechanism.

Claim 19 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 18, wherein said drive unit has a gear wheel that can be exteriorly driven using a key.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said motor has a drive shaft that lies parallel to an axis of the filling channel.

Claim 21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said closure part is connected with an outer door of a car body so that when said closure part is opened, the outer door is also opened.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said closure part is connected with an outer door of a car body, so that when said closure part is closed, the outer door is also closed.

Claim 24 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 22, wherein said closure part has a projection that engages in a connecting link profile of the outer door.

Claim 25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~25~~ 33, wherein the button is coupled with a central locking system.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~25~~ 33, wherein the button is arranged so that

it can be activated by means of pressure on the closed outer door.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said motor is controlled by means of a remote control.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~1~~ 32, wherein said motor is controlled by means of a switch in an interior portion of a vehicle.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The fuel tank closure according to claim ~~14~~ 32, further comprising a shutter that can be closed with a flap, said shutter being arranged in the filling channel and limiting introduction of dispensing nozzles into the filling channel to dispensing nozzles having diameters no greater than a selected value.

Claim 31 (original): The fuel tank closure according to claim 30, wherein said shutter that can be closed with the flap is arranged in said thrust ring.

Claim 32 (new): A fuel tank closure for closing off a filling channel comprising:

(a) a closure part movable between a closed position in which an opening of the filling channel is sealed and an open position in which the filling channel is released in order to fill a fuel tank, said closure part sitting on an edge of the opening to form a seal in the closed position, and being pivoted laterally relative to the filling channel in the open position, said closure part having a cap that fits onto the edge of the opening and two struts arranged laterally on the cap;

(b) a drive unit comprising a motor driving said closure part;

(c) a force absorption part arranged on at least one of the struts on which forces in an axial direction, for closing and opening the fuel tank closure, can be exerted; and

(d) an axially movable thrust ring coupled to said force absorption part;



wherein said drive unit drives a threaded pipe piece, said pipe piece being rotatable about a longitudinal axis of said pipe piece, said pipe piece surrounding said thrust ring and interacting with a thread of said thrust ring in order to move said thrust ring axially.

Claim 33 (new): A fuel tank closure for closing off a filling channel comprising:

(a) a closure part movable between a closed position in which an opening of the filling channel is sealed and an open position in which the filling channel is released in order to fill a fuel tank; and

(b) a drive unit comprising a motor driving said closure part;

wherein said closure part is connected with an outer door of a car body, so that when said closure part is closed, the outer door is also closed; and

wherein the outer door has an electric button for turning on and off said motor.